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Governor



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Director

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

Water Resources Development Commission (HB 2661) Environmental Working Group

Meeting Summary

Date: Friday, May 13, 2011
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Location: ADWR, 3550 North Central Ave, Verde Conference Room

Attendees:

Bill Plummer
Brenda Burman
Chris Udall
Christine Dawe
Cliff Cauthen
Doug Kupel
Jean Calhoun
Jim Renthal
Jocelyn Gibbon
Karen Nally
Linda Stitzer
Rebecca Davidson
Rob Marshall
Sharon Morris
Val Danos
Wade Noble
Warren Tenney
Via Phone:
Bill Wells
Dave Weedman
Dean Mair

- I. Introductions and Updates
The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Brenda Burman and Warren Tenney and began with introductions.
- II. Summary of Findings – 2nd Draft
A draft summary of findings, dated 05/11/11, was distributed to the group for review.

Terms and Definitions: The definition for Perennial Stream will be expanded to include the terms/definitions Intermittent and Ephemeral. A suggestion was made to add the term/definition "Environmental Flow" back into the report based on its relevance in the scientific community. Some members of the group objected to this suggestion stating that a decision was made at the last meeting to remove this term due to confusion about its definition. Warren stated that the group hasn't made any final decisions on the content of the report and that it's still open for discussion.

A recommendation was made to keep all terms and definitions in one central location rather than in various sections throughout the report (i.e. page 14).

Federal Reserve Rights: Members of the group disagree with how and where this topic is discussed in the report (currently included as an appendix). Doug stated that he is uncomfortable with the topic of Federal Reserve Rights being removed from the report's body text and relocated to an appendix. Linda indicated that there was an in-depth discussion about Federal Reserve Rights during the committee's last meeting. Doug stated that the group should remain sensitive to varying political views on both the state and federal levels of government. He also noted that the topic of environmental conditions were not included in the language of HB 2661 and the inclusion of this information in the Commission's final report could be controversial if it is not presented in a thoughtful way. Much thought should be put into how the topic of Federal Reserve Rights is presented. Christine stated that the topic of Federal Reserve Rights cannot be ignored and should be included in the committee's report. Linda mentioned that a discussion about Federal Reserve Rights was included in the report because other water rights are also discussed. Members of the group concluded that information in the report should be presented from an objective point of view without emphasis on any specific topic.

Catalog of current conditions: The group was reminded that all data sources used in the development of the report should be properly cited. It's important that readers aren't misled about the age of the data sets and that it is made clear that data is not a projection of future conditions.

Introduction (pg 5): The group discussed the wording used in the Introduction of the report. Members disagreed on the language used in this section and were not able to come to a resolution. Members of the group expressed concern with regards to the summary of findings not complimenting the basin summaries, tables and figures. Warren volunteered to continue editing and re-structuring the report in an effort to better provide a better connection between all work products of the working group. Jocelyn offered her assistance in this process and stated that the summary of findings should be used to provide a context for the data (ie what does the data mean and how can it be used).

Figure (pg 15): Rob clarified that this figure is a generalized model. It includes a hydrograph from the Upper Verde, but it was not intended to be used as a specific example. Rob will include a citation to the figure's original data source and a brief narrative describing the figure.

Appendix: Members of the group stated that some content currently included in the report could cause resistance from various entities. While there was agreement regarding this statement, members also stated that it would be difficult to convey the importance of environmental factors and how they relate to other resources. Members are concerned that if the summary of findings is viewed as too controversial, the Commission could eliminate this topic from the final WRDC report and the value of the group's work would be lost. Warren stated that he was aware of possible political issues arising during the WRDC's work process when he became the working group's chair.

III. Final Basin Tables, Summaries & Maps

Basin Summaries: Rebecca is finalizing the basin summaries and will send a revised version to the group early next week for review/comment. The group will be given 2 days to provide feedback. Doug inquired about the additional references included at the end of the basin summaries. Rebecca explained that this is an annotated bibliography on flood flows and economic conditions that was provided by Joanne

Nadeau, Water Resources Research Center. The group agreed that because this information is part of another publication (Arizona Environmental Water Needs Assessment published March 29, 2011), the annotated bibliography will be removed from the basin summaries and replaced with a citation for the publication.

Basin Summary Table: Rebecca presented a new basin summary table to the group. The table was developed in an effort to provide an overview of the data included in the basin summaries, tables and maps. This table could be useful to the WSD Committee and would provide a connection between the summary of findings and detailed basin information developed by the working group.

Terms and Definitions: The group discussed the importance of providing definitions and citations for the various terms used in the detailed basin information (ie ADEQ Unique Waters, Wild and Scenic, etc.). Other committees of the Commission may be defining these terms differently which would cause confusion and misunderstanding in the final report of the WRDC. Warren and Brenda agreed to discuss this issue with the other committee chairs.

Dean Mair suggested that the report include information on the relative age of groundwater. Linda thought that this information would be more relevant to the Water Supply and Demand Committee's work.

- IV. Committee Recommendations to the WRDC
Warren provided the group with a list of draft recommendations for review. The group agreed to review this document and provide comments to Warren.
- V. "Bin" Items (items that could not be addressed due to timeframe/scope)
- VI. Final Assignments & Schedule
Rebecca, Sharon, Santiago - revise the basin summaries, basin summary table, individual basin tables and maps by next week and send to group for review
Warren – revise the summary of findings
All – review/comment on all working group products including the draft recommendations
- VII. Next Full Committee Meeting
TBD

Meeting adjourned at approximately 3pm

Submitted by: Sharon Morris
Approved by: Brenda Burman and Warren Tenney